

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3404

ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002

ILLEGAL MINING

SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coal mine under Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in Hazaribag district has collapsed due to illegal mining activities as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated March 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the number of casualties reported therein;

(d) the amount of compensation provided to the affected families;

(e) whether illegal mining is going on in various mines of Bihar, Jharkhand and other parts of the country;

(f) if so, the number of such cases noticed during the last three years and as on March 31, 2002; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal mining and punish the guilty persons found responsible ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): No, Sir. After inspection visits by officials from the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), the District administration and the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), no such occurrence has been found.

(b) to (d) : Do not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

(e) : Cases of illegal mining activities in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned/ closed / disused mines or from outcrop regions have been reported mainly from the areas under the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) situated in West Bengal and Jharkhand States.

f) : During the period from 1998-99 to 2001-2002 (upto December, 2001), First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged in 857 cases involving illegal mining activities.

(g) : The following steps are being taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining in the leasehold areas.

- 1) Intelligence collection.
- 2) Dozing off/ filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible.
- 3) Erection of fencing/walls in abandoned/ disused openings.
- 4) Round the clock patrolling by coal company's own security force and the CISF.
- 5) Cases of illegal mining are reported to the district authorities.
- 6) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to the local police and FIRs are lodged.
- 7) Close liaison is kept with the district authorities seeking their help and co-operation in curbing illegal mining.

To curb illegal mining, the Government have also taken up the matter with the coal producing States.